

AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 24, 1998

**Senate Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 67**

**Introduced by Senator Polanco**

February 6, 1998

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Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 67—Relative to the Joint Legislative Committee on Prison Construction and Operation.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 67, as amended, Polanco. Joint Legislative Committee on Prison Construction and Operations.

This measure would permanently establish the Joint Committee on Prison Construction and Operations to assume primary responsibility for providing legislative scrutiny over prison construction and operations *including investigation of inmate population management issues, and overseeing the bidding process for, and the implementation of, all community correctional facility contracts.*

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, As a result of the passage of Proposition 184  
2 and the recent enactment of other laws, the inmate  
3 population of the state prison system is projected to  
4 increase by unprecedented numbers. The Department of  
5 Corrections currently operates 33 state adult correctional  
6 facilities, 38 camps, and 56 community correctional  
7 facilities, housing more than 155,000 inmates. The  
8 Department of Corrections also retains jurisdiction over  
9 more than 100,000 parolees; and

1 WHEREAS, As evidenced by the defeat of Proposition  
2 205, the “Youthful and Adult Offender Local Facilities  
3 Bond Act of 1996” on the November 5, 1996, ballot, the  
4 people of the State of California are unwilling to support  
5 financially the expansion of correctional facilities.  
6 Californians are demanding greater fiscal accountability  
7 for the operation of correctional facilities; and

8 WHEREAS, The inmate population is projected to  
9 increase to over 171,000 in the 1998–99 fiscal year; and

10 WHEREAS, Controlling the rapid growth of  
11 corrections construction and operations costs is one of the  
12 greatest challenges facing this state. The total proposed  
13 budget for the Department of Corrections for the 1998–99  
14 fiscal year is approximately four billion one hundred  
15 million dollars (\$4,100,000,000); and

16 WHEREAS, Senate Concurrent Resolution 16 of the  
17 1997–98 Regular Session reauthorized the existence of the  
18 Joint on Committee on Prison Construction and  
19 Operations until June 30, 1998; and

20 WHEREAS, In order to provide for joint legislative  
21 oversight of the state’s fastest growing segment of  
22 government, and to ensure a sense of fiscal responsibility  
23 to the people of California, it is vital that the Legislature  
24 permanently reestablish the Joint Legislative Committee  
25 on Prison Construction and Operations; now, therefore,  
26 be it

27 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the*  
28 *Assembly thereof concurring,* That the Joint Legislative  
29 Committee on Prison Construction and Operations is  
30 hereby permanently established. The committee shall  
31 assume primary responsibility for providing legislative  
32 scrutiny over prison construction and operations; and be  
33 it further

34 *Resolved,* That the committee shall also investigate and  
35 make recommendations on inmate population  
36 management issues as they affect problems of  
37 overcrowding, recidivism, and successful return to  
38 society by inmates; and be it further

39 *Resolved,* That the committee shall consist of ~~three~~ four  
40 members of the Senate appointed by the Senate

1 Committee on Rules, and ~~three~~ *four* members of the  
2 Assembly appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly. A  
3 member of the Senate shall chair the committee. The  
4 chairperson shall appoint staff persons who shall be  
5 authorized to inspect prison facilities and departmental  
6 documents, except as otherwise provided by law; and be  
7 it further

8 *Resolved*, That the committee and its members shall  
9 have all of the rights, duties, and powers conferred upon  
10 investigating committees and their members by the Joint  
11 Rules of the Senate and Assembly as they are adopted and  
12 amended from time to time, which rules are incorporated  
13 herein and made applicable to this committee and its  
14 members; and be it further

15 *RESOLVED*, *That the committee shall be charged*  
16 *with overseeing the bidding process for, and the*  
17 *implementation of, all community correctional facility*  
18 *contracts.*

19 *Resolved*, That the Senate Committee on Rules may  
20 make money available from the Senate Operating Fund  
21 as it deems necessary for the expenses of the Joint  
22 Legislative Committee on Prison Construction and  
23 Operations and its members. Any expenditure of money  
24 shall be made in compliance with policies set forth by the  
25 Senate Committee on Rules and shall be subject to the  
26 approval of the Senate Committee on Rules; and be it  
27 further

28 *Resolved*, That the Joint Legislative Committee on  
29 Prison Construction and Operations shall submit a report  
30 at the end of each legislative session to the Legislature on  
31 its activities; and be it further

32 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit a  
33 suitably prepared copy of this resolution to the author for  
34 appropriate distribution.